Dublin, February 16. 1861

My dear [illegible]

Your most long and most interesting letter arrived yesterday [illegible] I read most of it at breakfast [illegible] the first [illegible] of it, and then, thinking it far too good to be wasted on the Advocate, I put the 4 sheets into the hands of a compositor who set it all up, in order to have it ready for the Advocate either as copied from the Times, or (in case of its being rejected) as original matter, I enclosed your letter enveloped and addressed to the Editor of the leading Journal, with a note saying who you are & who I am, with a request in the event of his accepting it that it should be signed only with an initial but guaranteeing your respectability & reliability & saying that the letter had been left at my disposal by you. On reading the letter in type, I thought that a good part of the first 4 pages was rather discursive & moralizing & in fact unlikely to be accepted. I therefore [illegible] the portion [illegible] directed the Editor's attention to the portion of your letter which has to do with facts rather than sentiments. If he accepts it, ~~it~~ it will do good. If he does not do I do not regret the trouble of making the offer. I have always thought it important to bring the abolitionists before the notice of the British people. I think that a great moral enterprise like yours should be as far as possible identified with some knowledge ~~an~~ of and interest in the character & mode of action of the actors. Within my own circle which is a very small one, I can see that something has been done in this way and although an intense stiffnecked orthodoxy carries all before it amongst the majority of those with whom I spend my life, I can perceive that the course of the abolitionists is respected though the dust that is aimed at them does not stick.

Some time ago I saw a reference in the Liberator to an attack on Phillips by the Poet Lowell in the Atlantic Monthly. I would exceedingly like to know the particulars of this. Perhaps you will send me the magazine by post & charge the cost to me — if it is worth sending — I mean if it is clear enough & possible enough to have any ~~[illegible]~~ power in it as coming from such a poet against such a very much greater man. I have heard of the wife of Dr Howe as particularly spiteful against W. Phillips — what is the cause. I thought Dr Howe himself was particularly favorable to liberty or at least hostile to slavery. [illegible] Dana in his "Cuba & Back" calls him "one of our few great men", forgetting a good many there are besides.

From the bad harvest, the unsettled state of the Continent, the severe weather, and the turmoil on your side of the water, — some or all of these causes — we are in a state of great prostration in the way of business. I do not remember so dull a time for so long together. It is certain that since the years immediately following the great Famine we have had nothing of the kind. I meet with many long faces on this account among my relations and acquaintances. But for the interests of my two sons this would not trouble me much — but it darkens the prospects of beginners to have such a dreary state of things around them. Alfred, my elder son, is now my partner & has the weight of the business on his back, & the times are extremely heavy and irksome to one who don't like to have his faculties rusting. Richard is in a commission business in partnership & his first year succeeded better than we first expected. . Miss Estlin I heard from lately through Eliza Wigham who is now in Dublin with her sister — one of them the sweetest & the other the happiest looking woman I know of. Mrs Edmundson is prosperous, healthy, & the sun of good fortune shines brightly upon her. With my kindest regards to your circle I am yours

Richd D Webb

Tell me about Ed Quincy.

Rec. Mar. 21/61
ans. " 26/61.

Rev. Samuel May,
Leicester,
Mass.

Ms. B.1.6 v.15 p.64